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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,532	09/26/2003	Michael T. Angus	DMNZ 2 00055	3727

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EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3754

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/672,532	Applicant(s) ANGUS, MICHAEL T.	
	Examiner James F. Hook	Art Unit 3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-21,23-33 and 42-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-21,23-33 and 42-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 42, and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guarnaschelli. The patent to Guarnaschelli discloses the recited fluid line connector assembly comprising a length of flexible metal corrugated tubing 10,11 having generally a cylindrical tubing end 11a, 10a, and an end fitting 20,21 secured to the ends of the tubing by brazing material provided to connect the ends to the inside of the end fittings, the fitting can be seen to have an inside and outside wall forming a passage through the fitting, a flexible sheath 12 formed of woven wires can be provided on the outside of the cylindrical tubing and held thereto, the non corrugated wall is cylindrical, there is inherently some space between the non corrugated wall and the end fittings to allow for brazing to take place as is set forth, the corrugations are helical, end fitting and the non corrugated end are coaxially received within one another, a shoulder can be seen inside of the end fitting and the non corrugated end of the tube abuts the shoulder.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guarnaschelli in view of Diebolt. The patent to Guarnaschelli discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of forming the end fittings of a specific material such as steel that is plated by an electroless nickel plating method. The use of low carbon steel is considered a mere choice of mechanical expedients. The patent to Diebolt discloses that it is old and well known in the art of threaded connectors to form such of steels and to plate the steel with an electroless nickel plating layer as such would protect the ends. It would have been obvious to provide the connectors in Guarnaschelli with an electroless nickel plating layer as suggested by Diebolt where such would help protect the connectors from corrosion thereby extending their life and the life of the hose and thereby saving money.

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guarnaschelli in view of Maxwell. The patent to Guarnaschelli discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of describing the make up of the brazing material. The patent to Maxwell discloses the recited use of a brazing material to connect metal pipes to further connecting structure using a material having the materials in the cited ranges set forth in applicants claims 12-15, and 28-31 which have the properties required in claims 11 and 27. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to

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substitute for the brazing material in Guarnaschelli to take any form as is known in the art for connecting metals, such as those set forth in Maxwell as such would provide for an adequate connection between dissimilar metals as suggested by Maxwell thereby preventing failure of the joint and saving money in replacement costs.

Claims 16-21, 23, 25 and 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guarnaschelli in view of Vaill. The patent to Guarnaschelli discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of forming the end connectors with collars to hold the outer sleeve and providing threaded ends. The patent to Vaill discloses the recited fluid line connector assembly comprising a length of flexible metal corrugated tubing 12 having generally a cylindrical tubing end and an end fitting 5 secured to the end of the tubing by brazing material, the fitting can be seen to have an inside and outside wall forming a passage through the fitting, a flexible sheath 17 formed of woven wires can be provided on the outside of the cylindrical tubing and held thereto utilizing both an integral sleeve near 8, and an outer collar 18, and a plurality of threads 6 are provided on the fitting. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute a treaded end provided with a collar for the flanged connector of Guarnaschelli as suggested by Vaill where such is an equivalent type of connector which can be provided to allow for connection to threaded connection applications, and where the collar is a more flexible way to attach the sleeve to the corrugated pipe thereby improving the usefulness and aiding in preventing of failure at the joint between the connector and the sleeve thereby saving money in repair costs to repair premature failure of the hose due to inflexibility at the joint.

Claims 24, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guarnaschelli in view of Vaill as applied to claims 16-21, 23, 25 and 26 above, and further in view of Diebolt. The patent to Guarnaschelli as modified discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of forming the end fittings of a specific material such as steel that is plated by an electroless nickel plating method. The use of low carbon steel is considered a mere choice of mechanical expedients. The patent to Diebolt discloses that it is old and well known in the art of threaded connectors to form such of steels and to plate the steel with an electroless nickel plating layer as such would protect the ends. It would have been obvious to provide the connectors in Guarnaschelli as modified with an electroless nickel plating layer as suggested by Diebolt where such would help protect the connectors from corrosion thereby extending their life and the life of the hose and thereby saving money.

Claims 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guarnaschelli in view of Vaill as applied to claims 16-21, 23, 25 and 26 above, and further in view of Maxwell. The patent to Guarnaschelli as modified discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of describing the make up of the brazing material. The patent to Maxwell discloses the recited use of a brazing material to connect metal pipes to further connecting structure using a material having the materials in the cited ranges set forth in applicants claims 12-15, and 28-31 which have the properties required in claims 11 and 27. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute for the brazing material in Guarnaschelli as modified to take any form as is known in the art for connecting metals, such as those set forth in Maxwell as such

would provide for an adequate connection between dissimilar metals as suggested by Maxwell thereby preventing failure of the joint and saving money in replacement costs.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-21, 23-33, and 42-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

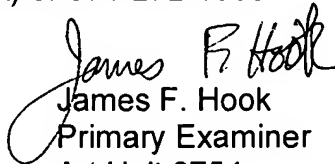
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


James F. Hook
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754

JFH